

Workingmen's Houses,
Martin Dumphy House
387 Southern Avenue
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-AF

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-AF-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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HABS No. 1A-159-AF

Site Location: 387 Southern Avenue
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1.33
Cadastral grid: SW1/4 NE1/4 S36 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691540.4705610
Lot dimensions: 81.5' x 200': .37 acre
Lot description: Lot 4 and Lot 2 of Lot 3
of John Breakey's Dubuque

Present Owner: Joseph C. Boyer and wife
Present Usage: single family residence
Present Condition: fair

Overall Dimensions: 2-story main block: 36' x 26'; front porch: 5' x 26'; side addition: 22' x 6'.

Orientation: south

Architectural Plan type: rectangular 2-story, with side addition.

Description: Foundation: parged stone perimeter walls.

Structure: wood frame

Ext. walls: painted, narrow exposure beveled wood siding, with plain corner boards.

Roofs: moderately pitched gables over front and rear sections of main block; moderately pitched hip over side addition; front roof slope extends, without break in pitch, over front porch; 3-tab or diamond-pattern asphalt shingles throughout.

Chimneys: one concrete block interior chimney at west gable end, straddle roof.

Dormers: none

Windows: painted wood 6/6 double-hung on front; 2/1 light surround porch and wall of east enclosed porch 3/3 light on south basement level; plain casings, drip molds, slip sills.

Openings: single-leaf primary entrance is 8-light, cross-paneled door on enclosed porch, centrally placed; metal door on south side of east addition; plain, single-leaf door on east side of this addition.

Porches: two-story, full-width front porch; the first story is enclosed with windows and siding like that of main block of house; second story is partially enclosed with a clapboard skirt; four wood posts with inset panels. On the rear of the east elevation is a one-story enclosed

porch with a hipped, asphalt-shingled roof; siding like that of the porch and 1/1 windows on east facade.

Details : molded and boxed cornices, with beaded board soffits, on main block and porch roofs; pilasters, sidelights and transom surrounding front door; concrete steps leading to front door with decoratively curved concrete railing and horizontally incised newel posts; picket fence.

Construction Date : 1865

Architecture Style: Side gabled box

Physical History : In May 1855 John Breakey platted a residential addition to the City of Dubuque on the north side of Southern avenue and sold Lot 3 to Michael O'Brien in July for \$105. O'Brien died sometime before June 1859. His widow Mary sold two lots of the property in 1865 to teamster Martin Dumphy. Dumphy built this large two-story house later that year. He lived here with his wife Mary for thirty years, taking out several mortgages, before selling the house to Rudolf M. Kunz in 1895. A bookkeeper for real estate agents Walker and Rhomberg, Kunz held the property for only a year before quit claiming it to his employer, A.L. Rhomberg. Rhomberg in turn rented the house to a series of short-term tenants, including machinist Charles J. Boyer and his wife Rose. In 1916 Boyer purchased the house outright from Rhomberg and occupied it until the late 1950s. Following a brief ownership by the Prisi family, the Boyer family regained possession in 1983. Throughout the extended occupation by the Dumphys and Boyers, the building has undergone relatively minor exterior alterations and has been maintained in relatively intact condition.

Significance: One of the earliest remaining structures on Southern Avenue, the Martin Dumphy House is a well-proportioned and well-preserved example of the workingmen's residences built at the southern periphery of Dubuque in the late 19th century. The house employs a classic vernacular configuration and resembles two other early Southern Avenue houses - the John H. Kelly House [HABS No. IA-159-W] and the Nicholas Thornton House [HABS No. IA-159-AD] - in its architectural detailing, side gabled facade and full-length, two-story front porch that extends from the main block roof.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-32-2-26.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames Iowa).

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.
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